

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 6 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 6 stand objected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend on another multiple dependent claim.

In view of the self-explanatory amendments to claims 5 and 6, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazunori (JP 06-270042) in view of Otto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,520,596; hereinafter “Otto”) and in view of Katsuhiro et al. (JP 61-261011; hereinafter “Katsuhiro”).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazunori (JP 06-270042) in view of Otto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,520,596; hereinafter “Otto”) and further in view of Giambalvo (U.S. Patent No. 4,223,782).

Claims 7-10 stand is under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazunori (JP 06-270042) in view of Katsuhiro et al. (JP 61-261011; hereinafter “Katsuhiro”).

Applicant cancels claims 1-4 and 7-10.

Supplementary Matters

The Examiner indicates that claims 5 and 6 have not been treated on the merits. However, in order to expedite prosecution in order to obtain an allowance, Applicant provides the following distinguishing comments regarding claims 5 and 6 with respect to Applicant's citation of Toru (JP08-294977), for the Examiner's benefit.

Toru differs from the subject matter as set forth in claims 5 and 6. Toru merely discloses a positioning device 22 that is provided with mold cradles 25 and 26 which hold top glass type 9 and lower glass type 10 (paragraph 23). The upper surface of the mold cradles 25 and 26 is equipped with alignment implements 27 and 28 which move in a direction as shown in drawing 7 (B) (paragraph 23). Toru then discloses that “[i]t is moved onto the same axis (drawing 7(C) - (D)), and approach movement is carried out mutually to the distance corresponding to the data of the main thickness subsequently read to shaft orientations, and the after that type holding fixtures 23 and 24 determined main thickness,” (paragraph 25). Toru then discloses “[a]dhesion fixing of the adhesive tape 33 is twisted and carried out so that the glass mold of both upper and lower sides may be straddled in the state,” (paragraph 25).

However, Toru fails to teach or suggest a tape winding device which winds the adhesive tape 33 onto surfaces of the molds. In contrast, the claimed invention is of a lens-casting-mold assembling apparatus that is accommodated in a dust-proof room, comprising, *inter alia*, a tape winding device which winds an adhesive tape onto peripheral surfaces of the positioned concave and convex molds, thereby to seal a gap between these molds, as recited in claim 5.

The Examiner’s applied references of Kazunori, Otto, Katsuhiro, and Giambalvo, independently or in combination, fail to compensate for the above-mentioned deficiencies of Toru. Even taken together, for what they would have meant to the artisan of ordinary skill, the combined teachings of all five references would not have (and could not have) led such a person to combine the applied references in any reasonable manner to produce the subject matter of either pending claim.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is patentable over Toru alone and also over Toru in combination with previously applied references. Applicant further submits that claim 6 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 5.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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